

REMARKS

Status of Application

Claims 1, 2 and 5-29 constitute all currently pending claims in the application. Claims 12, 20, and 22 are amended.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claim 12 due to certain informalities. Applicant hereby amends claim 12 to address the Examiner's objection, and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 20 and 22 are amended to depend from independent claim 15. Claims 20-23, therefore, do not now lack antecedent basis for the claimed "method," nor are they now duplicates of any other claims, as the Examiner alleged. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 20 and 22 and their dependent claims 21 and 23 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 25-29. Further, as all remaining issues raised by the Examiner with respect to claims 1, 2 and 5-24 have been addressed herein, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Amendment is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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